

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 00742 230305Z
ACTION EUR-12

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P 230102Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2536
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL QUEBEC
ALL CONSULATES IN CANADA

UNCLAS OTTAWA 00742

E.O. 116752: N/A
TAGS: OTRA, PFOR, CA
SUBJ: TRUDEAU VISIT AND SPEECH TO CONGRESS - ROUNDUP

REF: OTTAWA 737

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. FEBRUARY 22 PRESS HAS GIVEN VERY WIDE
COVERAGE TO TRUDEAU VISIT TO WASHINGTON WITH PARTICULAR
EMPHASIS ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENTS REGARDING A UNITED
CANADA AND REGARDING PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENTS REGARDING A UNITED
CANADA ANDS REGARDING PRIME MINISTER'S REFERENCES TO SAME
SUBJECT IN SPEECH TO CONGRESS. LATTER, HOWEVER, HAVE BEEN
STRAIGHTFORWARD NEWS REPORTS OF SPEECH, WITH LITTLE EDITORIAL-
IZING SO FAR, WITH EXCEPTION OF TV COMMENTATORS' VIEWS RIGHT
AFTER SPEECH. END SUMMARY.

2. MONTREAL GAZETTE, IN LEAD ARTICLE, HEADLINED "FIRST U.S.
COMMENT: CARTER TELLS CANADA HE IS ANTI-SEPARATIST".
ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT, "PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER HAS PUT
THE UNITED STATES FIRMLY ON THE RECORD AS BEING AGAINST ANY
BREAKUP OF CANADIAN CONFEDERATION . . .IT WAS THE
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FIRST TIME CARTER HAD SPOKEN ON THE SUBJECT OF CANADA
AND QUEBEC -- AND THE FIRST TIME ANY UNITED STATES
REPRESENTATIVE HAS COMMENTED OFFICIALLY -- AND THROUGH-
OUT THE INTERVIEW CARTER WAS OBVIOUSLY BEING EXTREMELY
CAREFUL TO AVOID SAYING ANYTHING THAT MIGHT BE INTER-
PRETED AS INTEREFERENCE IN CANADIAN AFFAFIRS". REMAINDER
OF ARTICLE SUMMARIZES CTV BRUCE PHILLIP'S INTERVIEW

(REFTEL).

3. OTTAWA JOURNAL HAD FRONT-PAGE ARTICLES DEVOTED TO TRUDEAU VISIT. ONE, HEADLINED "U.S. PRSEFERS A UNITED CANADA, SAYS CARTER", HAD SAME THEME AS GAZETTE ARTICLE. ANOTHER WAS A COLUMN OF ANALYSIS BY JOURNAL CORRESPONDENT PAUL WHITELAW, HEADLINED "SEPARATISM COMMENTS FINE WITH TRUDEAU". WHITELAW STATES THAT "ALTHOUGH SOME PEOPLE MIGHT FEEL THE PRESIDENT SHOULD MIND AMERICAN BUSINESS, NOT CANADA'S, MR. CARTER COUCHED HIS COMMENTS BYNOTING CONFEDERATION'S FUTURE 'IS A DECISION FOR THE CANADIAN PEOPLE TO MAKE'". ALTHOUGH WHITELAW DESCRIBES PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT AS "OUT-SPOKEN", HE CLAIMS THAT "IT WAS NEVER ANY SECRET THAT HIGH-LEVEL ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS WERE OPPOSED TO A BREAKUP OF CANADA". OTTAWA CITIZEN SIMILARLY HEAD-LINED: "U.S. AGAINST CONFEDERATION BREAK-UP: CARTER".

4. GLOBE AND MAIL FRONT-PAGED STORY THAT, "CARTER INVITES PRIME MINISTER TO OFFER HIS ADVICE ABOUT WORLD AFFAIRS"; SIMILAR STORIES APPEARED IN JOURNAL AND GAZETTE. K SYNDICATED COLUMNIST CHARLES LYNCH WONDERED IF "... PRESIDENT CARTER WILL BE TAKING THIS ATTITUDE TOWARD ALL HIS VISITORS". BUT ON THE WHOLE, REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S INFORMALITY AND GENUINE INTEREST IN SEEKING ADVICE HAVE BEEN WELL RECEIVED.

5. CBC AND CTV CARRIED TRUDEAU SPEECH LIVE. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING, CBC INTERVIEWED SEVERAL SENATORS UNCLASSIFIED

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(E.G. STEVENS, MUSKIE, MOYNIHAN, GRIFFIN, MCGOVERN, JACKSON) ALL OF WHOM PRAISED TRUDEAU SPEECH VERY HIGHLY, POINTED OUT U.S. BASICALLY FAVORS CANADIAN UNITY, BUT WOULD NOT INTERVENE IN INTERNAL CANADIAN MATTERS. CTV WAS SOMEWHAT LESS COMPLIMENTARY. IT REPLAYESD CARTER INTERVIEW, AND BRUCE PHILLIP AND LLOYD ROBINSON THEN DESCRIBED TRUDEAU SPEECH AS "TOO HEAVY." IT WAS ALSO TOO GENERALIZED FOR THEM, AND ROBINSON CHARACTERIZED SPEECH AS SEEMING LIKE "STONE TABLETS" DRAFTED BY PM FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISER IVAN HEAD. DUEMLING

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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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